



Department
for Transport

Mato Frankovic
Mayor
Republic of Croatia
Dubrovnik-Neretva County
City of Dubrovnik

From the Parliamentary
Under Secretary of State
Robert Courts MP

Great Minster House
33 Horseferry Road
London
SW1P 4DR

Tel: 0300 330 3000
E-Mail: robert.courts@dfat.gov.uk

Web site: www.gov.uk/dfat

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Dear Mato,

Thank you for your letter of 2 April to Grant Shapps, about the resumption of international travel. I am replying as the Minister for aviation. I want to thank you for raising your concerns regarding travel between the UK and Dubrovnik and for sharing your findings.

There is no doubting that Government has had to make difficult decisions throughout the pandemic, including placing restrictions right across the economy. I recognise that the additional travel measures announced earlier this year including the requirement for pre-departure tests, travel bans and mandatory quarantine, have been difficult for the sector, but it is important to stress that they are of national importance. We must limit imported cases to strengthen our borders and prevent the spread of COVID-19 into the UK, in order to save lives and protect our NHS – and in the slightly longer-term, to allow the safe and sustainable restart of international travel.

The COVID-19 roadmap included a commitment to relaunching the Global Travel Taskforce to consider the safe return of international travel. We have worked with industry and international partners to develop a risk-based framework that can facilitate the return of international travel while managing Variants of Concern. We have underway the most ambitious vaccination programme in history, which affords a unique opportunity to pursue a safe and gradual lifting of restrictions. We will confirm by early May if non-essential international travel can resume on 17 May.

When we are able to lift restrictions, we will introduce a “traffic light” system in which countries will be categorised as Red, Amber or Green. The traffic light system will allow us to vary restrictions depending on the risk of travel from a specific location, and also enable us to be flexible in responding to changes in risk levels.

- There will be no immediate change for arrivals from red countries, who will be required to complete a pre-departure test (PDT), enter managed quarantine (MQS) and take day 2 and day 8 tests.
- Arrivals from amber countries will be required to complete a PDT and home quarantine for 10 days, with the option to opt-in to test to release at day 5. They will also be subject to a day 2 and day 8 test.
- Arrivals from green countries will not need to home quarantine but will need a PDT and a day 2 sequencing test.

We will also be introducing a new public-facing “Green Watchlist” to identify countries at risk of moving from Green to Amber and providing additional information to consumers considering travel plans.

Building consumer confidence to book and to travel is critical as we move towards reopening. We will be introducing a suite of initiatives to support consumers, including a passenger COVID-19 charter setting out consumer rights and responsibilities, clear communications on travel advice and requirements, and robust health measures to ensure safe travel.

The point of reopening will not constitute the end-state for international travel. We will be reviewing travel measures through a series of checkpoints in June, July and October, taking into account the latest domestic and international data. The system we have designed will be adaptable to the evolving epidemiological picture, and UK Government is prepared to take action at any time to protect public health.

Clearly this remains a challenging time for tourism and aviation and the Government is committed to developing a positive direction for the future. Thank you again for writing to me and continuing to work with us on these important matters.

Yours sincerely,



ROBERT COURTS MP

MINISTER FOR AVIATION, MARITIME AND SECURITY